

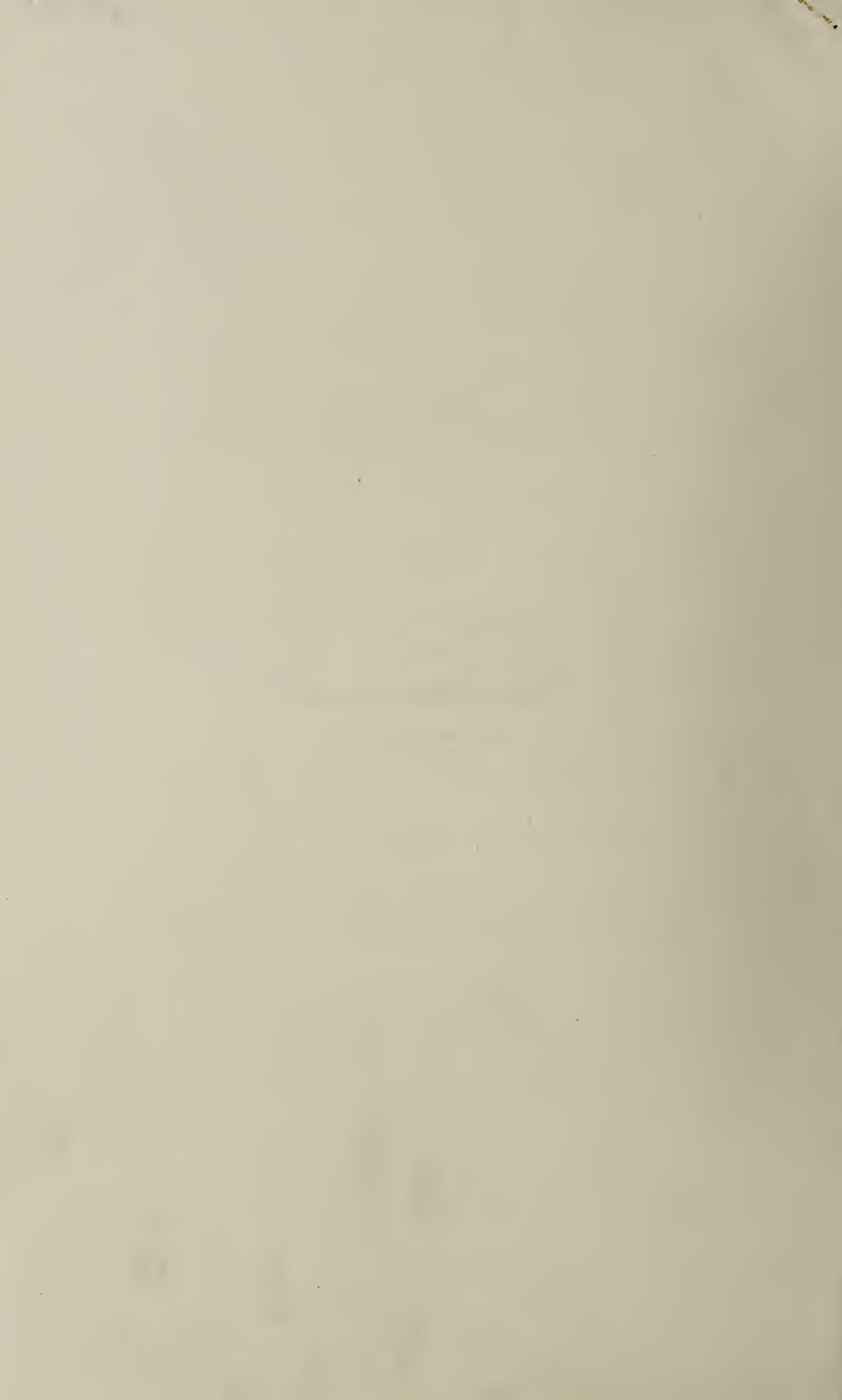
LUTTERWORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1950



LUTTERWORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1950

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Tanner and Gentlemen,

I beg to present herewith the Annual Report on the Health of your district for the year 1950.

STATISTICS

					<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>
Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	46,701	46,701
Estimated (civil) population	...	...	...	...	11,640	11,730
Births,	legitimate	M. 103	F. 100		200	203
	illegitimate	M. <u>4</u>	F. <u>4</u>		<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>
		107	104		209	211
		<u>107</u>	<u>104</u>		<u>209</u>	<u>211</u>
Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	17.9	17.9
" "	(for England and Wales)			..	17.9	15.8
Deaths	M. 62	F. 68		<u>Total</u>		130
Crude Death Rate	...	...	...	...	11.8	11.0
Factor for Comparative Death Rate	...	...	...	...	0.89	0.89
Death Rate for England & Wales	...	...	...	...	11.53	11.6
Deaths of Infants under one year of age	...	...	...	...	3	9
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births	...	...	...	...	14	42
Infant Mortality Rate for England & Wales	...	...	...	...	24	29.8

Causes of Death

The principal causes of death were: heart disease 56; cancer 67; intra-cranial vascular lesions ("stroke") 9; pneumonia and bronchitis 16; tuberculosis 5.

COMMENTS ON STATISTICS

Birth-Rate The Birth-Rate has fallen but is still above the average of the war years. The following are the figures for previous years:

<u>Birth-Rate</u>	<u>Lutterworth R.D.</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
Average for 5 years		
1946	20.0	19.1
1947	21.6	20.5
1948	20.5	17.9
1949	17.9	17.9
1950	17.9	15.8

Death-Rate The death-rate was a fraction higher than in the previous year. The following are the figures for previous years:-

<u>Death-Rate</u>	<u>Lutterworth R.D.</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
1941-5 (av. for 5 years)	12.6	11.9
1946	12.4	11.5
1947	10.0	12.0
1948	11.5	10.8
1949	11.8	11.5
1950		11.6

Infant Mortality There were 9 deaths of infants under 1 year. This is equal to 42 per 1000 births. As I have pointed out in previous reports, in a district with only a small population, such as Lutterworth R.D., one must be prepared for considerable fluctuations year by year. The only reliable figures are those for a series of years. As will be seen from the following table, Lutterworth compares favourably as regards infant mortality with the country as a whole, in spite of a rather high figure in 1948 and 1950. The low infant mortality is an advantage to be set against some of the obvious disadvantages of country life, such as comparative absence of the amenities associated with town life, e.g. water supply, sewage disposal, means of transport and shopping facilities. At the same time, it is greatly to be hoped that these drawbacks to life in a rural district will soon be largely eliminated. They have been allowed to continue too long.

A study of the following figures shows the really remarkable fall in infant mortality which has occurred in past year throughout England and Wales, and which, with the exception of 1948, has been equally marked in Lutterworth. This fall is one of the most satisfactory features of our national statistics and is attributable no doubt to the greatly increased care and attention which children now receive, and which, in turn may be attributed indirectly to the reduction in the birth-rate, and to the higher standard of life now possible for the lower ranks of the community.

INFANT MORTALITY TABLE

<u>Average of 5 years</u>	<u>Lutterworth R.D.</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
1926-30	60	68
1931-35	51	62
1936-40	44	55
1941-45	38	50
1946	27	43
1947	20	41
1948	41	34
1949	14	24
1950	42	29

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCE OF THE AREA

The Lutterworth R.D. is entirely rural in character. It has an area of 46,000 acres, but the population is only 11,640. It comprises the little country town of Lutterworth and 24 villages and 2 hamlets. Of the 24 villages, Broughton Astley is by far the largest with a population of over 1,400, the remaining 23 villages have an average population of only 280 each.

Notification of Infectious Disease

During 1950 the following notifications were received:

Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	3
Whooping cough	..	..	..	..	12
Measles	..	..	..	..	106
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	4
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	1
Poliomyelitis	...	..	...	...	2
Tuberculosis, pulmonary	..	..	...	...	8
other forms	..	...	...	...	1

Apart from measles there was very little infectious disease during the year. As I have said in my previous reports, in my opinion the notification of measles is not worth the expenditure of time and money which it entails. It was introduced as a war measure and it is a pity it was not discontinued when the war ended.

Diphtheria Again I am able to report that no case of diphtheria was notified during the year. The last case was in 1943 when there was one case, and there were five cases in 1941, the year in which immunization was started. Blaby has been almost as fortunate.

Diphtheria Immunisation Under the National Health Service Act which came into operation at mid-year, 1948, the responsibility for immunization was transferred from the District Councils to the County Council. The latter body, not having at present the necessary staff to carry out the work themselves, decided to let it be done by the general practitioners in each area. The following table shows the number of children immunized each year since immunization was started, both before and since the County took over.

Immunization in Lutterworth R.D.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Under 5 years</u>	<u>5 - 14 years</u>	<u>Re-immunized</u>	<u>Total</u>
1941	315	1208	-	1523
1942	113	12	-	125
1943	231	183	3	417
1944	133	11	4	148
1945	256	36	6	298
1946	162	27	216	405
1947	196	26	189	411
1948 (1st half)	118	41	405	564
(County Council took over)				
1948 (2nd half)	68	4	10	82
1949	191	7	58	256
1950	143	12	58	213

These figures indicate a very substantial falling off.

The following information has been supplied by Mr. H.G. McNaught, the Council's Surveyor and Chief Sanitary Inspector.

HOUSING

Housing still continues to be the pressing problem but it can be considered that the Council is making satisfactory progress.

On 1st January, 1950, there were 58 houses under construction and in contract, 50 of these being in course of erection. During the year a further allocation of 40 houses was received and out of these four private enterprise licences were issued.

During the year the number of houses completed by the Council was 52 and 12 were completed by private enterprise.

At the end of the year there were 484 applications on the Council's housing lists, an increase of 56 on the previous year.

So far as the Housing Act, 1949, is concerned, there were several applications for grants under this Act, but contrary to the Council's expectations they were all received from owner occupiers and not from owners of property which was let. As the building licences for this work had to be issued within the Council's ceiling for ordinary repair work, the Council found it impossible to deal with any of these applications.

Some progress was made with the repair of cottage properties in the district but progress is slow due to the high cost of labour and materials, and whilst the demand for houses is still far in excess of the supply, it is very difficult for the Council to take any action which would reduce the available housing accommodation throughout the district.

WATER SUPPLIES

Good progress has been made on the district water supply scheme and the work commenced at Broughton Astley in December 1949 was completed so far as the main laying was concerned and the house service connections are in progress of being laid.

In other parts of the district the position is as follows:-

SOUTH WESTERN AREA

The pipes for this scheme have been received and the contract for the laying of the mains has been let and the work will commence in January 1951. This scheme will supply the villages of Misterton, Walcote, Cotesbach, Shawell, South Kilworth, Swinford and Catthorpe.

NORTHERN & EASTERN AREA

The pipes for this part of the area are on order and tenders for the work of laying will be asked for as soon as a firm date for delivery is received.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

A detailed scheme for a sewage purification works for Claybrooke Magna, Claybrooke Parva and Ullesthorpe has been before the Ministry for some time but as yet the date of the Public Enquiry has not yet been fixed. Some progress has been made with regard to the question of sites for the works and pumping station and it is hoped that progress can be made at an early date as the sanitary circumstances of these villages are such that the provision of a sewage purification works has become a matter of some urgency.

A further scheme is at present being prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineers for the provision of works at Broughton Astley to serve that village together with Dunton Bassett, Ashby Magna, Leire and probably Ashby Parva.

SCAVENGING

The scavenging of the district is carried out by Direct Labour and continues to work satisfactorily, but the absence of a tip at Broughton Astley makes it necessary for a long haul from this village. Efforts are being made to obtain a tip in this part of the district.

MILK & DAIRIES REGULATIONS

In conjunction with the County Medical Officer the Council have undertaken the biological sampling of milk and during the year 30 samples were submitted for examination. Only one was found to be unsatisfactory and this was speedily dealt with by the County authorities.

FOOD & DRUGS ADMINISTRATION

The Ministry of Health has introduced Model Bye-Laws for securing the observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food sold or intended for sale for human consumption. The Council has now adopted these Bye-Laws and it is hoped that this step will facilitate the promotion of hygienic standards in food handling.

INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTOR

	<u>No. of Inspections</u>
Animal keeping	12
Bakehouses	Nil
Dairies	34
Drainage works	68
Dwelling-houses (all purposes)	179
Food premises	3
Rats & Mice destruction	17
Refuse collection and disposal	310
Schools	8
Slaughter-houses and meat inspection	1
Tents, vans, sheds etc.	16
Verminous and dirty premises	5
Water supplies	126
Workshops, outworkers etc.	11
Other inspections	<u>73</u>
	<u>863</u>

My Resignation as your M.O.H.

My resignation as your M.O.H. takes effect from 30th June. From that date Dr. W. Temple Phillips, one of the Assistant M.O.H. to the Leicestershire C.C., will take over as your M.O.H. He is well qualified for the post.

I have been your M.O.H. since 1st July, 1940. I took on the work as a war-time job, little thinking that I should hold the post for so long.

I am, Mrs. Tanner and Gentlemen.

Your obedient servant,

C. Killick Millard.

The Gilroes,
Leicester.

June, 1951.

